

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2017 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

**HON. PAUL D. RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2017*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and interact on issues of mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany for ten days from Friday, May 26–Sunday, June 4, 2017. During this ten day exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat Members, Bundestag and Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic, and media agencies.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States for ten days Saturday, April 29–Sunday May 7, 2017. They will attend similar meetings here in Washington.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States, and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation should consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

Please note that the U.S. participants are expected to plan and implement the meetings and program for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States.

Participants are selected by a committee composed of personnel from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State and past participants of the exchange.

Members of the House and Senate who would like a member of their staff to apply for

participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

Applications should be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HC-4, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2017.

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO MATERNITY CARE ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 9, 2017*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 315, the bipartisan Improving Access to Maternity Care Act which I was pleased to introduce with Representative BURGESS.

Today, millions of expectant mothers in rural and underserved areas in our country face lengthy wait times and have to travel long distances to receive maternity care. Without adequate care, they are at increased risk for complications and their newborns are at higher risk to endure health problems. Access to maternal health care professionals including OB-GYNs and midwives is a critical component of consistent, high-quality maternal health care from conception through birth.

In my home state of California there are only 4,856 OB-GYNs according to the Pew Charitable Trust, for almost 40 million residents, a shortage which can result in dangerous health risks and long-term consequences for new mothers and their babies.

I'm proud to support H.R. 315, which takes an important first step toward meeting the growing need for maternal health care professionals across our country. By directing the collection of data about current access to maternity care, this legislation will identify the geographic regions of our country that face shortages in maternal health care professionals and will eventually result in the distribution of maternal health care professionals, including doctors and midwives to areas of the country where the full scope of their medical practice can be utilized and where they are needed most. This bill makes important progress toward ensuring that all Americans, expectant and new mothers have access to the healthcare they need and deserve.

EDWARD C. McNAMARA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2017*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward C. McNamara for

his many years of outstanding service with the National Ski Patrol.

The National Ski Patrol (NSP), the largest winter rescue organization, is a federally chartered nonprofit membership association dedicated to serving the public and the mountain recreation industry. For 75 years, the NSP has been on the forefront of safety and emergency care education programs.

Ed McNamara, a retired U.S. Army National Guard Colonel, has served on federal, state and local emergency medical and Homeland Security advisory committees. He is a nationally registered Paramedic and has been deployed with federal disaster medical teams responding to national emergencies.

Ed began his tenure with the NSP in 1979 when he became a patroller with the Watatic Mountain Ski Patrol in Ashby, Massachusetts. Over the years, Ed has held several leadership positions including Outdoor Emergency Care Instructor, National Outdoor Emergency Care Director and Board Chair of the National Ski Patrol. He recently received the prestigious Minnie Dole award. This award is one of NSP's most rarely given awards, which recognizes those exceptional few patrollers who exemplify the long-term dedication, devotion, and self-sacrifice of the founder of the NSP, Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole.

Ed has worked passionately over the years to improve outdoor safety care which is reflected in his exemplary contributions as Chief Editor of the Outdoor Emergency Care Manual 5th Edition. This teaching manual provides a road map for national practices and procedures for outdoor safety care.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Edward McNamara for his dedication to the continuing education and safety of the snow sport industry.

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2017*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life and, unfortunately, his untimely death, remind us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. In his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, Dr. King embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our nation. It lives on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. I am honored to rise today to recognize several individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District who

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

will be recognized during the 38th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Saturday, January 14, 2017, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

The Gary Frontiers Service Club will pay tribute to local individuals who have for decades selflessly contributed to improving the quality of life for the people of Gary. This year, Denise C. Dillard and Deacon James Holloway will be honored with the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award. Additionally, several individuals will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast including Vanessa Allen Ed.D., Natalie Ammons, WD Brewer, Patricia Owens-Lee, Reverend R. Jerry Prothro, and Kerry Rice Sr. In addition, Dorothy R. Leavell, editor and publisher of *The Gary Crusader*, will be the recipient of the 2017 Gary Frontiers Gratitude Award.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of each of these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and faced them with unwavering strength and determination. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." They set goals and work selflessly to make them a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these honorees, as well as the Gary Frontiers Service Club officers, President Oliver J. Gilliam, Vice President James Piggee, Recording Secretary Linnal Ford, Financial Secretary Melvin Ward, and Treasurer/Seventh District Director Floyd Donaldson, along with Clorius L. Lay, who has served as Breakfast Chairman for sixteen years, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to serving the people of Northwest Indiana.

#### INTRODUCING THE IRAQ AND SYRIA GENOCIDE EMERGENCY RELIEF AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2017

##### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2017*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce that my friend ANNA ESHOO and I today introduced the Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act of 2017 (H.R. 390).

H.R. 390 would require the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development to identify the urgent humanitarian needs of Christians and other genocide survivors from religious minority communities and to start supporting some of the entities effectively aiding them on-the-ground.

This bill is urgently needed because Christian survivors of the ISIS genocide are facing an emergency. Just before Christmas, I went to Erbil in the Kurdistan region of Iraq to meet with these survivors. They told me the United States had abandoned them. I saw first-hand how the Obama administration has failed to help them.

I was in Erbil at the personal invitation of the Chaldean Catholic Archbishop of Erbil, Bashar Warda. More than 70,000 Christians—10,500 families—who escaped from ISIS have relied on the Archdiocese of Erbil for food, shelter, and medical care to survive. Yet the Obama administration and United Nations have refused to give a single dollar to the Archdiocese to help them. They have been kept alive only because of the generosity of organizations like the Knights of Columbus and Aid to the Church in Need. However, the needs are so great that the Archdiocese is chronically in crisis mode, unsure whether it will soon run out of resources to sustain these Christians.

The winter temperatures are freezing and the risk of related illness is high. Iraq's Christian population is less than 250,000, down from up to 1.4 million in 2002, down from 500,000 in 2013 just before ISIS began targeting Christians for genocide.

Having fled ISIS, these Christians may have to flee their homelands. Perhaps they will take the little money they have left, and pay smugglers to get them to Europe. They would risk becoming prisoners of human traffickers or perishing in the Mediterranean Sea, where more than 5,000 refugees and migrants died or went missing in 2016.

For a few of these genocide survivors unable to return home, the only long-term option may be resettlement in a country like the United States as a refugee. Our legislation would create a Priority Two designation that they are of "special humanitarian concern" to the United States. The P-2 designation would ensure that they are able to get an overseas interview with the U.S. government to be considered for the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program without needing a referral from the United Nations, an NGO, or another U.S. government entity. This would not guarantee acceptance and admission and they would have to clear the same security screening as every other Iraqi and Syrian refugee before being admitted. But at least they will be considered.

The other key element of our bill focuses on accountability. It would require the U.S. government to identify and support some entities that are conducting criminal investigations, and collecting evidence, on perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes in Iraq and Syria. This evidence is usable in future criminal trials. Until now, the State Department has been considering these crimes merely as human rights violations, rather than as crimes.

Archbishop Warda has put it clearly. "These coming months may well decide the fate of Christianity in Iraq: whether it survives and is given a chance for rebirth; or whether it perishes, existing only as a few scattered museum pieces with caretaker clergy, of interest to tourists and academics perhaps, but without the Christian people who had lived there for two-thousand years."

As the Syriac Archbishop of Mosul, who had to seek refuge in Erbil from ISIS together with his people, told me during my mission, "We pray that President Trump will help us. We are the last people to speak the Aramaic language. Without help, we are finished."

Archbishop Nicodemus had reason to be hopeful. On September 9, 2016, at the Voter Values Summit, then-candidate Trump said, "ISIS is hunting down and exterminating what it calls the Nation of the Cross. ISIS is car-

rying out a genocide against Christians in the Middle East. We cannot let this evil continue."

If our legislation moves quickly onto the floor for a vote and to President Trump for his signature, I am confident that he will sign it and ensure that it is fully implemented. The Christians of the Middle East are counting on us.

Many groups support H.R. 390, including the Knights of Columbus, Family Research Council, In Defense of Christians, 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative, Commission for International Justice and Accountability, HIAS, Aid the Church in Need USA, Open Doors, A Demand for Action, Yezidi Human Rights Organization International, Religious Freedom Institute, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, and Syrian Accountability Project, and Civitas Maxima.

It is also supported by all the former U.S. Ambassadors-at Large for War Crimes, David Scheffer (1997 through 2001), Pierre Prosper (2001 through 2005), Clint Williamson (2006 through 2009), and Stephen Rapp (2009 through 2015), as well as the Founding Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, David Crane, the Director of the Center for Religious Freedom Nina Shea, and the author of *Defying ISIS*, Rev. Johnnie Moore.

Fifteen of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, are original cosponsors of H.R. 390. I call on my other colleagues to cosponsor this bill and help ensure that it gets to the new President as soon as possible so that Christian genocide survivors in Iraq and elsewhere get the help they so desperately need.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2017*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed roll call vote numbers 24 through 25 on the floor of the House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted yea to both bills.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2017*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during the votes held on January 10, 2017, I was inescapably detained and away handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. If I had been present, I would have voted YES on the Velázquez Amendment, YES on the Clay/Waters Amendment, and YES on Final Passage of H.R. 79.

#### TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF ROBERT ROSENBAUER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

##### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 10, 2017*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Bob" Rosenbauer, a